

<sup>21</sup> *California v. U.S.*, 438 U.S. 645 (1978).  
<sup>22</sup> "National Mission and Goals Statement," National Rural Development Partnership, at [www.rurdev.usda.gov/nrdp/goals.html](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/nrdp/goals.html).  
<sup>23</sup> Council on Environmental Quality, "American Heritage Rivers Initiative," at [www.epa.gov/rivers/ferreg2.html](http://www.epa.gov/rivers/ferreg2.html).  
<sup>24</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>25</sup> U.S. Constitution, Article I, Section 9, Clause 7.  
<sup>26</sup> Council on Environmental Quality, Draft Memo, "The American Heritage Rivers Initiative," provided to the House Resources Committee and the basis for questioning at a hearing on the Initiative. See *Oversight hearing on the Clinton Administration's American Heritage Rivers Initiative*, House Report 105-36, 105th Congress, 1st Session, July 15, 1997, pp. 81-82.

LETTER FROM VINCENT  
PISCITELLO ON LIVING WAGES  
FOR SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION  
WORKERS

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 15, 1998*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, the issue of prevailing wages for workers on government construction projects has been a major topic of debate during the 105th Congress. In his letter to members of the Cleveland City Council, Mr. Vincent Piscitello, President of VIP Restoration Inc., presents an articulate and compelling argument for the importance of paying employees a living wage when they renovate schools in the Cleveland area. I commend Mr. Piscitello for his clear thinking and commitment to working families, and offer his letter to be included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

VIP RESTORATION, INC.,  
Cleveland, OH, October 6, 1998.

Re the elimination of prevailing wage requirements for work performed at the Cleveland City Schools.

City of Cleveland Council Members,  
Council Chambers,  
Cleveland, OH.

DEAR COUNCILPERSON: You may or may not be aware that the Cleveland City Schools has dropped the prevailing wage requirement for construction projects on city schools and facilities. The prevailing wage guidelines require contractors to pay their employees a decent living wage. The elimination of this requirement is result of the passage of State Senate Bill 102.

Ostensibly, using underpaid workers reduces construction costs and therefore the tax burden on the citizens. While many good arguments can be made regarding the fallacy of the proposition that low paid, unskilled workers could complete projects on time, with high quality, and within budget, I believe that the more immediate and important issue is the elimination of good paying jobs with benefits.

Over the years unions (supported by prevailing wage requirements) have provided good paying jobs. They have enabled many to climb the ladder into middle class and prosper. Unions provide training, a living wage, and benefits. Union members have gone on to own their own business, send their kids to college, and generally benefit society by being able to provide for their families.

A non-union job paying \$9 dollars an hour without benefits is fine for a single young person with no dependents. But how do you expect a person (or two) who has worked a full day and takes home \$64 after taxes to support their family? Medical emergency?

Just don't have them. Saving for retirement? Not possible. By increasing dependency upon governmental entitlement programs this legislation actually increases overall costs and the burden on the taxpayer.

Currently, many unions are looking for young energetic men and women to become apprentices. Is there an opportunity for underemployed inner city youths to learn a trade, have a decent paying job, and build a solid fiscal foundation for themselves and their families? I think so. But eliminate the prevailing wage requirements and you eliminate opportunity.

Are the lawmakers who passed this legislation and administrators who choose to implement it in on a conspiracy to hold down the working person? I don't really think they are but I do believe they are short sighted and may have a bad case of "I got mine".

State Senate Bill 102 does not require a school district to hire contractors who employ non-union personnel or pay low wages, a school system can choose to require prevailing wage. Other school districts have agreed to continue to use prevailing wage guidelines. The Construction Employers Association is working with many local school districts to inform them of their rights, the benefits of keeping prevailing wages, and the opportunities available to high school graduates looking to enter the trades.

It is important that your constituents have decent paying jobs allowing them the opportunity to provide for their families. We need your help to inform the powers that be that prevailing wage requirements need to be maintained when performing work at the Cleveland City Schools.

Please contact John Porada of the CEA at (216) 398-9860 or me at my offices with any questions.

Sincerely,

VINCENT PISCITELLO,  
President.

HOW LONG UNTIL THE Y2K  
COMPUTER PROBLEM?

**HON. JOHN LINDER**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 15, 1998*

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, there is approximately 1 Year, 2 Months, 16 Days, 10 Hours, 56 Minutes, and 43 Seconds until the Year 2000 computer problem affects computers and computer chips worldwide on the morning of January 1, 2000.

As we know, many computers will be unable to process dates beyond December 31, 1999, making the year 2000 indistinguishable from the year 1900. The potential technological turmoil could cause computers to generate incorrect data or stop running. Credit cards, ATM cards, security systems, hospital equipment, telephone service, electricity, and paycheck systems could be affected. I don't think anyone is sure what will happen.

Fortunately, in the year 2000, we have a few days to recover after the Y2K problem hits because January 1 falls on Saturday. However, we lose one potential additional day because the New Year's Day holiday—by law—must be observed on the previous Friday, December 31, 1999.

I have introduced legislation that will provide the public and technology professionals with an additional day, prior to the start of the first workweek in January 2000, to work on repairs

on failed computer systems caused by the Year 2000 computer problem. H.J. Res. 130 will move the New Year's Day holiday in the year 2000 to Monday, January 3, 2000.

Mr. Speaker, congressional committees have been successfully working to prepare the nation for Y2K, and this is just another proposal that may help ease the difficulties we face. It is not a silver bullet to solve the problem. It is vital that all businesses and government agencies continue to mobilize and work to repair computers in the remaining 442 days before the Y2K problem strikes. H.J. Res. 130 simply ensures that businesses, the public and computer experts have an additional 24 hours to respond to problems that may arise.

IN HONOR OF MICHAEL FLEET ON  
HIS RETIREMENT

**HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 15, 1998*

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Michael Fleet on his retirement from the Santa Ana Police Department.

Mike began working for Santa Ana Police Department on September 14, 1970 as a police officer. In September of 1986, he was assigned to work in the Canine Unit as a handler.

Officer Fleet and his canine, Carlos, were assigned to work narcotic enforcement where Officer Fleet remained for the duration of his career. Mike and Carlos achieved national records for drug seizures. They seized over \$56 million in drug monies and over 20 kilos of cocaine.

In 1991, Mike and his partner, Carlos, were awarded Uniformed Officer of the Year from the Drug Enforcement Agency.

During his career as a police officer, Mike distinguished himself as a hard-working and dedicated law enforcement officer. He has earned the respect and admiration of all of his colleagues in the law enforcement community for his commitment to the city of Santa Ana.

Mike is known to many around the department as a "Dad" for the generosity and compassion he shows to all of his colleagues. A true cowboy at heart, Mike enjoys riding horses and listening to country music in his free time.

I am very proud of you, Mike, for all your bravery and your selfless dedication to your career and your community.

Have a wonderful retirement!

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CITY  
OF RIVERSIDE

**HON. KEN CALVERT**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 15, 1998*

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the city of Riverside, California, which was recently awarded the distinguished honor of being named an All-America City. The All-America City designation, first awarded 49 years ago, is designed to recognize cities across our nation that have exemplary programs and initiatives that combat problems